

# **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-106670**

**MAIN FILE**

**SECTION: 87**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MAIN FILE

100-106670

SECTION 87

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : G. C. Moore

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNISM

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop

DATE: July 2, 1969

1 - Mr. G. C. Moore  
1 - Mr. J. J. Dunn  
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Pursuant to your request there is set forth below the information concerning the dissemination and subsequent recall of a document captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis," dated 10/16/63.

The above document was disseminated on a ~~Top Secret~~ basis to the Attorney General, with a copy each for the Deputy Attorney General and the Assistant Attorneys General Burke Marshall and J. Walter Yeagley. In addition, a copy each was sent to P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, John McCone, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, Rear Admiral Rufus L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence, Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence, Brigadier General John S. Samuel, Director of Special Investigations for the Air Force and General D. M. Shoup, Commandant of the Marine Corps. The dissemination was recommended and approved by memoranda dated 10/15/63 captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis," and 10/18/63, same caption, both from Mr. W. C. Sullivan to A. H. Belmont. (Xerox of each attached). The dissemination to General Shoup was authorized by memorandum dated 10/25/63 from D. J. Brennan, Jr., to Mr. W. C. Sullivan captioned "Request From Commandant, Marine Corps, for Top Secret Document Entitled 'Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis,'" (Xerox attached). In addition, on an Informative Note dated 12/2/63 (Xerox attached) there is a notation that the Top Secret summary was made available to President Johnson by Mr. DeLoach and it was returned the next day.

By memorandum dated 10/25/63 (Xerox attached) from Director, John Edgar Hoover to Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, DeLoach, Rosen and Sullivan, the Director stated that the Attorney General felt we should get back all copies of the document captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis" dated 10/16/63. In accordance with the Director's instructions, all copies were retrieved from the individuals to whom they were disseminated.

ACTION: Provide your information.

Enclosures

JGD:rmn (7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAW/ML

6076

240

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ENCLOSURE

WEL & DJS V

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

DATE: 10-15-63

FROM

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT--  
A CURRENT ANALYSISALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/1

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFIED AND  
EXTENDED BY SP4 JAM/1  
REASON FOR EXTENSION  
1. CIM. II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR  
DECLASSIFICATION

[REDACTED]

The enclosed article is a factual, documented analysis of the over-all current situation. We believe that it would be of interest not only to the Attorney General but also to Mr. O'Donnell, at the White House; Mr. McCone, at the Central Intelligence Agency; Mr. Rusk, at the Department of State; as well as to Mr. McNamara and the three Armed Forces intelligence agencies of the Defense Department. Accordingly, if the article as prepared is approved, we propose to disseminate it to the afore-mentioned individuals and agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed article be approved. If approved, it should be returned to the Domestic Intelligence Division for preparation of appropriate letters of transmittal.

Enc

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Research - Satellite Section

CDB:dww  
(6)

REC 7

OCT 23 1963

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: 10-18-63

FROM : W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT--  
A CURRENT ANALYSIS

Re my memo in captioned matter 10-15-63, attached, in which it was recommended and approved that we disseminate the prepared analysis regarding communist activities and the Negro movement on a select basis to individuals and agencies set forth in referenced memo.

Attached are appropriate letters of transmittal for dissemination. Through them, we are sending a copy of the analysis to the Attorney General, with a copy each for the Deputy Attorney General, and the Assistant Attorneys General Burke Marshall and J. Walter Yeagley. In addition, a copy is being sent as an enclosure to attached letters for P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President; the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State; the Honorable John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence Agency; the Honorable Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense; Rear Admiral Rufus L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence; Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence; and Brigadier General John S. Samuel, Director of Special Investigations for the Air Force.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letters be approved and sent.

Enclosures

CDB:jej  
(10)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. R. W. Smith
- 1 - Section tickler
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan

31 NOV 6 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

Tolson  
Belmont  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
DeLoach  
Evans  
Malone  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JOM/4  
6076

REC 7

OCT 28 1963

UNITED STATES

AGENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO :

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: October 25, 1963

FROM :

D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT:

REQUEST FROM COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS,  
FOR TOP SECRET DOCUMENT ENTITLED  
"COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT -  
A CURRENT ANALYSIS"

On 10/24/63, Major Henry R. Marshall, Counterintelligence Branch, U. S. Marine Corps, personally requested a copy of captioned report, which had been disseminated to Admiral Rufus Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence. According to Major Marshall, Marine Commandant David J. Shoup had expressed a personal desire to review this information and inasmuch as his office had not been furnished this data, he requested that an extra copy be disseminated to him.

In accordance with General Shoup's request, a copy was furnished to Major Marshall on 10/24/63. Major Marshall was impressed with the extremely sensitive nature of the information set forth in the document and was appropriately admonished to insure that proper security is afforded it.

## ACTION:

For information.

LPK:mls (6)  
1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Sullivan  
1-Mr. R. W. Smith  
1-Mr. Keenan  
1-Liaison

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-4-81 BY SP4JRM/ML  
6076

REC- 83

OCT 28 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

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DATE 2-4-81 BY SP4 JPM/14

6072

113 (1. 10-61)

Domestic Intelligence Division

DEC 6 1963

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 12/2/63

Attached is Atlanta teletype 12/3/63 indicating Martin Luther King will meet with President Johnson 11:30 a.m., 12/3/63.

Also attached is the summary, "Communism and the Negro Movement-- A Current Analysis," which we prepared on King. This memorandum was disseminated and later all copies were recalled, at request of the AG.

This information re King will be of vital interest to the President. We suggest that Walter W. Jenkins, Assistant to the President, be orally briefed by Assistant Director DeLoach regarding the background of King. The attached TOP SECRET summary contains data which may be utilized for the briefing.

SBD: csh

NOTE:

The Top Secret Summary was made available to Pres. Johnson by DeLoach - The Pres. returned the summary as received & returned it to the R. - The next a.m. - per T.D.B.

100-106670-3638  
ENCLOSURE 548

ENCLOSURE



4:14 p.m.

October 25, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. MOHR  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. SULLIVAN

The Attorney General called and advised me there was a lot of talk at the Pentagon regarding the document, Communism and the Negro - A Current Analysis, dated 10-15-53, which had been disseminated to the military and intelligence agencies by the Bureau. The Attorney General anticipated that this information would leak out as the military didn't like the Negroes.

The Attorney General felt we should get back all copies of the document. I told him we had a tally of all copies and we would get them from all agencies to which they were disseminated. The reason to be given for recalling would be revisions. I also told him if any newspapers asked about this, no comment would be made and no mention would be made that such a document existed.

4:40 p.m.

I advised the Attorney General that liaison representatives had been sent to get all copies of this document.

The Attorney General wants all copies disseminated to Departmental officials recalled also.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JPM/ld

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

REC-22

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 12:55 PM
DATE 28-1-67
BY 01-28-11

ENCLOSURE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED  
(20)

100-106670-3638

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Room 5744

1969

TO:

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. DeLoach  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Mohr  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Bishop  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Gale  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Rosen  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Callahan  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Casper  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Conrad  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Felt  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Sullivan  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Tavel  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Trotter  
 \_\_\_\_ Mr. Beaver  
 \_\_\_\_ Miss Gandy  
 \_\_\_\_ Miss Holmes  
 \_\_\_\_ Personnel Files Section  
 \_\_\_\_ Records Branch  
 \_\_\_\_ Mrs. Skillman  
 \_\_\_\_ Mrs. Brown  
 \_\_\_\_ John Quander

Mr. Tolson\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy\_\_\_\_

See Me  
 Send File  
 Please Call Me

For appropriate action  
 Note and Return

Clyde Tolson

[REDACTED]

CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60611

b7(c)

Clyde Tolson  
Associate Director  
Federal Bureau of  
Justice Department  
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

CHICAGO  
JUN 20 1969

VIA AIR



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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/124

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11-1-64-1

ORIGINAL FILED IN

NOT RECORDED  
48 JUN 30 1969

ENCLOSURE  
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
51 JUL 17 1969

CRIME RESEARCH

COMMUNICATIONS

June 19, 1966

Maybe: Thought you'd appreciate  
contribution of [redacted]  
to the following, Regards.

# Mike Royko

## FBI's tapping of King phones

The FBI has a lot more explaining to do about its motives for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It has publicly described as "malicious" a column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the tapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, associate FBI director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons, with the approval of the late Robert Kennedy, then attorney general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ONE THING IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN, is the following incident:

About four years ago, an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. They were things I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me reflected in any way on Dr. King's loyalty, his Americanism, or seemed to be remotely related to national security.

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted ex-agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed.

The shocking part of it was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

IT WAS PLAIN OLD MUD-SLINGING, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-pecking publications.

There was no doubt in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for national security, I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent — a private citizen — could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well known and highly respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-pecking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'm doubly

b7(c)

100-106670-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-81 BY SP4 JOM/MLK

dent:

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**AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH** official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced.

The scandal-sheet business should be left to private industry.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/ik  
6076

Mr. Nelson  
Director of the FBI  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your extension of remarks  
which appeared in the Congressional Record of June 24th.  
It was indeed thoughtful of you to comment as you did and  
I have inserted into the Record the article from "The Eve-  
ning Star" of June 19th concerning the Martin Luther  
King, Jr., wiretap controversy.

I certainly appreciate your continuing staunch  
support and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,

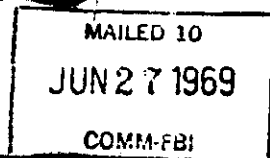
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Oklahoma City

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4 JRM/ML  
6071

NOTE: Congressman Edmondson is on the Special Correspondents List.

CEE:HK (5)



ENCLOSURE

16 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

25 JUN 30 1969

NOT RECORDED  
165 JUL 1 1969

ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN  
DATE

FBI OFFICE

HON. ROBERT F. KENNEDY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1966

MR. EDMUNDSON. Mr. Speaker, during recent months we have heard considerable controversy about the involvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr. The controversy has been based on two versions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's authorization for the wiretapping. The record has not been clear and a detailed accounting of the wiretapping which preceded the hearing of the Attorney General for the wiretapping.

I place in the Record at this point from the Washington Evening Star of June 16, setting forth specific details on the authorization of the wiretapping.

The Star article states that the disclosures "climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI." The article should also serve to end the controversy and any further irresponsible reporting on the subject.

FBI Director Hoover has documented his account of the record and the record now speaks for itself.

The Star article follows:  
KING WIRETAP CALLED R.F.K.'S IDEA, SAYS AN ATTORNEY  
WASHINGTON, June 16 (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy, the attorney general, said today that the FBI's wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was his idea.

(By Jeremiah O'Leary)

Wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s telephone was proposed to the FBI by then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in June, 1963, and authorized by him in writing later that year, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told The Star today.

Hoover revealed the contents of two memoranda in one of which Kennedy expressed concern about possible infiltration of the race issue by Marxists and spoke of allegations that the Negro leader was closely associated with Marxists and followers.

The Justice Department also reported the contents of a conversation Evans had just had with Kennedy in which the Attorney General asked about the feasibility of installing electronic devices on King's telephone. King headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

HOOPER ABOUT ALLEGATIONS

Hoover, according to the Evans memo, was concerned about reports that King was a student of Marxism, that he was associating with a New York attorney with known Communist connections, but that he did not openly espouse Marxism because of his religious beliefs. The Evans memorandum indicated Kennedy wanted to know if it was technically feasible to use electronic devices to prove or disprove these allegations.

The Evans memo said Evans replied to Kennedy that King was a man who traveled almost constantly and that it was extremely difficult to use wiretaps effectively in such cases.

Hoover told The Star that FBI officials also informed Kennedy at that time that they doubted the advisability of undertaking electronic surveillance of Dr. King because of possible political repercussions.

However, the second memorandum cited by Hoover shows that on October 7, 1963, the FBI chief reported to Kennedy that it was then technically feasible to apply wiretaps to King's telephones at two places, one of them at an unnamed location in New York.

That memorandum constituted the FBI's request for authority to proceed with the wiretap proposed by Kennedy four months before. The document bears in the lower left-hand corner the signature, "Robert F. Kennedy," and under the name the date "10-10-63."

Hoover did not indicate to The Star when the surveillance was started but said the taps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. At that time Nicholas Katzenbach was serving as Attorney General.

Asked about the results of the electronic surveillance today, Hoover declined comment.

The FBI director told The Star: "I have never authorized installation of technical electronic devices without written authority of the Attorney General."

Today's disclosures climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI, a subordinate bureau of the Justice Department, in using wiretaps or other electronic devices in investigative matters. The matter came to a head Sunday when Carl Rowan, a columnist for The Star, charged that the FBI had no authority to wiretap Dr. King's conversations. He quoted former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who succeeded Katzenbach, as saying "the implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat is outrageous."

The Rowan charges prompted Associate FBI Director Clyde A. Tolson to write to Rowan early this week defending legality of the King wiretaps.

"For your information," Tolson said in his letter, "the wiretap on Martin Luther King, Jr., was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy."

Tolson added that the monitoring device was "strictly in the field of internal security and therefore was within the provision laid down by the President of the United States."

Evans, now a Washington lawyer, was en route to Puerto Rico today and could not be reached for comment. However, Tuesday night Evans said he had no recollection of whether a wiretap authorization directed at King had ever been involved in his discussion with Kennedy.

Aides to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said today he would have no comment on

Robert Kennedy's role in the wiretapping. Recent days that, even after the announcement of the wiretapping, John P. Kennedy, the attorney general's interest in some of his official affairs had flagged. However, the announcement came nearly six weeks after Robert Kennedy signed the authorization for the King wiretap.

Hoover and Kennedy, it was said, had each used the word "security" in their discussions of the wiretapping.

Evans' memo, which was made public when Kennedy made public a February 1966 letter to him from Evans which made the point that the use of hidden microphones was not Kennedy's responsibility but suggested he may have directly approved the use of wiretaps on phones. That letter said the FBI sent national security wiretap requests to Kennedy for approval.

It is reliably reported that Kennedy was reminded by the FBI that it still had in its files the authorizations signed by him as Attorney General for telephonic wiretaps. However, Hoover did not disclose at that time any names of persons under wiretap surveillance with Kennedy's approval.

At that stage, Kennedy and Hoover broke off the public exchange of charges as if by mutual consent. This was regarded partly as due to Kennedy's realization that his signed authorizations were still in FBI files, partly to the FBI's desire not to have special attention drawn to its investigative techniques nor to engage in a battle with the Kennedy forces that could have political overtones.

The Justice Department on Tuesday declined a direct answer when asked for documentation of Tolson's contention in his letter to Rowan. But earlier this month, a Justice Department spokesman said Hoover was "accurate in every respect" in his repeated statements that all wiretaps were being authorized in advance and in writing by the Attorney General during the time-span of the controversy.

A Justice department spokesman, asked today if Attorney General John N. Mitchell had given Hoover permission to discuss the contents of secret documents of the King wiretapping, replied simply, "no comment."

However, the spokesman recalled that the attorney general had declined to authorize disclosures in court of the basic authority for the wiretapping. Such disclosures had been demanded by defense lawyers in the Houston draft evasion hearing for former boxing champion Cassius Clay. It was during that hearing that the King wiretapping was officially revealed for the first time.

ENCLOSURE

Spencer

100-106670 -

b7(c)

76

Mr. Mike Royko  
Columnist  
Detroit Free Press  
Detroit, Michigan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-4-91 BY SP-10/MLK

Subject: Your article appearing 6/19 re "HOOVER" - an analysis

Dear Mr. Royko:

Your article (copy enclosed) suggests your observation the motive for wiretapping Dr. King might be a) Mr. Hoover didn't like Dr. King (par F) and b.) Mr. Hoover resorted to using his agency to go into the scandal sheet business (par G).

Have you asked your lockerroom contact if the motive for wiretapping was "national security". Have you asked him the nature of the "national security"? Maybe you feel these questions are not important to your report of your lockerroom experience.

If the purpose of the wiretapping was national security and if national security should be kept secret (as you suggest par. F). And you had club house experience where the matter was discussed in some intimate details, and yet you did not find out what the motive was for the wiretapping (par A); then I would suggest your contact maintained his obligation of secrecy for the wiretapping.

As a matter of national policy do you think:

- a. Mr. Hoover should make public "national security" details of investigations?
- b. To whom should he make these motive known?
  - (1) you acknowledge your contact and other trusted ex-agents were "let in on such things" (par B).

You state (par C) "a famous man's imperfections don't shock me". This characteristic is admirable and one of a mark of perfection for yourself. Thus, you shouldn't be shocked at the imperfection of your lockerroom contact (par D) for his not being immune to being effected by revelations of famous men's imperfections.

I would suggest you contact your lockerroom contact to determine if the wiretapping had a "national security motive", then write another article on the subject so as it is complete.

cc:

NOT RECORDED (continued next page)

51 JUL 14 1969

6 JUN 17 1969

ORIGINAL FILED IN



pg. 2

It would be contrary to national policy for  
article alleges (going to the point of the  
King), and it would just be to put the  
required to make public details of "national security"  
because of "imperfections of persons" "let in on the secret".

I feel you are definitely on target with public interest in  
publish possible use of our governmental agencies  
to accomplish personal motives of public officials.

Your exercise of telling of your experiences as a person  
the chips fall where they may is also consistent with  
I, as a layman, see it.

I have made this analysis of your article for my own use  
pass it on to you for what it is worth.

Keep up your good work and best wishes to you for the future.

Sincerely,

A large rectangular area of the document has been completely redacted with black ink, obscuring the signature and any text that might have been present.

cc: C. Tolson  
Associate FBI Director

b7(c)

6/19/69

Reason

## Bugging King

CHICAGO—The FBI was not more exacting to do so with its offices for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was rather "pragmatic" in a column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the wiretapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, FBI Director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons. The "national security" of the late Robert Kennedy was a general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ON THING IT DOESN'T explain is the following incident:

About three years ago an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me that the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. Naturally, if you bug almost anybody's bedroom long enough, you will hear personal things.

They were things that I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me about reflected in any way on Dr. King's "loyalty," his "Americanism," or seemed to be remotely related to "national security."

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said that he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the Dr. King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed. A famous man's imperfections don't shock me.

The shocking disclosure was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

It was plain old mud slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking public actions.

THERE WAS NO DOUBT in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest that the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for "national security," I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent—a private citizen—could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well-known and highly-respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE of such official eavesdropping to gather spite-material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was then I'll gladly second Rowan's wish that Hoover be replaced.

The scandal sheet business—private industry.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4/MLL

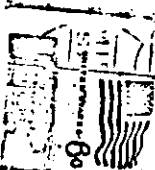
ENCLOSURE

100-100070-

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

b7(c)

2-14-81  
6076



Airmail

Mr. Clyde Tolson  
Associate FBI Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

5-11-1

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
INFORMATION CONTAINING

67(c)  
A newspaper column critical of the connection with our investigation of Martin Luther King has been sent to the Director by one [REDACTED]. Accompanying the newspaper is a note from [REDACTED] which states, "I expect to see your response to this column, and have asked my senators to insist on it." [REDACTED] letter, [REDACTED] and the postmark on the envelope is not legible.

The newspaper column which was sent to the Director by [REDACTED] bears the by-line of Mike Royko; however, neither the name of the newspaper nor the date on which the column was published is indicated. In the column, Royko claims that about four years ago a former FBI Agent told him that during a trip to Washington he (the former Agent) had been briefed by the Director regarding "the contents of the (Martin Luther) King file." Royko then implies that the information which the Director disclosed to the former Agent about King "was plain old mud-slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking publications." Royko concludes, "If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second (Carl) Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced." Royko does not name the former FBI Agent to whom he refers.

## INFORMATION IN BUFILES

100-106620  
Bufiles reflect that Mike Royko is a columnist for the "Chicago Daily News." On December 24, 1964, he wrote what apparently was intended to be a humorous satire on an open house held in the press room of the new Federal Building in Chicago which stated, in part, "Reporters, judges, FBI men, government prosecutors, private attorneys and assorted federal officials were standing around drinking, bragging and fibbing to each other." SAC M. W. Johnson immediately contacted the Executive Editor of the "Chicago Daily News" and protested that this was a complete fabrication and unscrupulous reporting. In subsequent editions of the December 24, 1964, issue of the newspaper, all reference to the FBI was deleted from Royko's column. At the time of this incident, SAC Johnson observed that Royko "is the type of writer who never has a good word to say about anybody or anything."

CONTINUED - OVER

NOT RECORDED

165 JUN 30 1969

REC. UNIT

ORIGINAL FILED IN  
CRIME RESEARCH

M. A. Jones to Bishop R

RE: [REDACTED]

b7(c)

[REDACTED] obvious [REDACTED] of Palatine, Illinois, who wrote the New York Times General R. F. Kennedy in 1961. [REDACTED] called Kennedy's action a "serious anti-FBI column" written by John Crosby in October, 1961. In his letter, he implied that the FBI was engaged in compiling "black lists" on just everyone in the United States, an activity repugnant to anyone who has a police state mentality" and inquired, "...what has the agency gathered that is of value to the ordinary citizen. ... Is the country any better for J. Edgar Hoover's activities?"

#### RECOMMENDATION

For information. It is felt that either [REDACTED] or Royko deserves the dignity of a reply.

note

Wright V  
JD

TED/a

1/3/68

to

P.B. Bush

SECRET

CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP4 JO  
REASON FOR EXTENSION 2  
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6-17-89  
6071

DATE: 6-17-69

ROWAN OF ARTICLE ENTITLED  
"THE CASE FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TO GO,"  
PUBLISHED IN THE 6-15-69 ISSUE OF  
"THE SUNDAY STAR," WASHINGTON, D. C.

SYNOPSIS:

Captioned individual in his article criticizes the FBI concerning its use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that Mr. Hoover be replaced immediately as Director of FBI. Bufiles reveal Rowan born 8-11-1911 at Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He received A.B. degree, Oberlin College (1936) and M.A. degree in journalism from University of Minnesota (1948). He has been a syndicated columnist with "Chicago Daily News" since 1965. We investigated Rowan, who had been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs since 1961, for State Department in 1962 and investigation was generally favorable.

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland (1963-64) and was Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), 1964-65.

In April, 1967, a request from Rowan to briefly meet the Director and discuss anti-Vietnam protests and Martin Luther King was declined. In June, 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan and voiced desire to help administration prevent Negro riots from occurring. Rowan stated he knew of good work FBI was doing in this field and offered

Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

FDX:roc (3)

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Classified by 6089 Lef/20  
Date of Declassification Indefinite 11/24/77

Attn: Jones to Bishop Memo  
RE: CARL T. ROWAN

to be of assistance to us. He also expressed belief that Martin Luther King, whom he described as a man with a "complex" and a dangerous man, had become a liability not only to the civil rights movement but to national defense and the country itself. He also spoke of King's willingness to move in the direction of the Left and stated King was no kind of a leader for the Negro people to have.

Rowan has in the past been critical of the Bureau in his writings. In an article appearing last April in the "Evening Star," Rowan discussed the departure of Henry Loomis from Voice of America (VOA) while Rowan headed the USIA. Rowan stated that just prior to this departure he had criticized Loomis as being "inexcusably irresponsible or was manifesting a futile notion that he could run VOA independent of its parent body the way J. Edgar Hoover supposedly ran the FBI aloof from policies of the Justice Department." Over the Director's signature, a letter was written on 4-4-69 to the "Evening Star" calling Rowan's "gratuitous slur" on the Director's administration of the FBI "completely irresponsible and untrue."

Rowan is not carried on any of our mailing lists.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

✓      *ant*      *TSB*      *K*

*D. J. 2*

Capit. [redacted] in his article criticizes the FBI  
concerning use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that  
Mr. [redacted] be replaced immediately as Director of the FBI. Our  
files [redacted] reviewed on Rowan and they reveal the following  
information concerning him.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Carl Thomas Rowan, a Negro, was born on 8-11-25 at  
Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He attended Tennessee State University  
(1942-43), Washburn University (1943-44), and received an A.B. degree  
in mathematics from Oberlin College in 1947. In 1948 he received an  
M.A. degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. He has  
been a columnist with the "Chicago Daily News" since 1965, and his  
syndicated column is carried by the "Evening Star."

[redacted]

b7(c)

[redacted]

b7(c)

[redacted]

b(1)





TO BISHOP  
T. ROWAN

[REDACTED] b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland from 1963 to 1964  
as Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) from 1964  
to 1965.

[REDACTED] b(1)(D)

In April, 1967, Rowan requested the opportunity to visit  
the Director for a brief chat. He stated that he would like to discuss  
some aspects of the anti-Vietnam protests and said he wanted to ask  
Mr. Hoover about Martin Luther King. He indicated at that time that  
when he was in Government service he had become aware of King's  
unfavorable side. It was recommended and approved that Rowan's request  
for a meeting be declined and this was done.

In June of 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan  
at which time he indicated that he would like to do everything possible to help  
the administration in its efforts to prevent Negro riots from occurring. At  
this time, Rowan advised that he knew of the good work that the FBI had  
been doing in this field and offered to be of any assistance in this regard.  
He also stated that he thought Martin Luther King had become a grave  
liability not only to the civil rights movement but to national defense  
and the country itself. He described King as a person with a Messiah com-  
plex and called him a dangerous man. He further spoke of King's willingness  
to move in the direction of the Left and stated that King was no kind of a  
leader for the Negro people to have.

DETAILS - CONTINUED OVER

↓ ↓

M. A. Jones to the  
RE: CARL

writings. In an article in the "Evening Star" regarding the "Voice of America" (VOA), Rowan stated that the "pragmatic" view of the Communist China put one million dollars into Philadelphia for the Revolutionary Action Movement. The statement was not substantiated in the article, which upset the administration of the Commission of Investigations, was a misuse of rumor and sensationalism, and was reporting at its worst.

During the first of this year, an article in the "Evening Star," discussed the charges against Henry Loomis from his position as Voice of America (VOA) while Rowan headed the USIA. In connection with this article, Rowan described a dressing down that he gave Loomis and, according to Rowan, told Loomis that he had been "excessively irresponsible or was manifesting a futile notion that he could run VOA independent of its parent body the way J. Edgar Hoover supposedly ran the FBI aloof from policies of the Justice Department." In connection with this article, the Director requested that the "Evening Star" be written and told that "Rowan's gratuitous slur on my administration of the FBI is completely irresponsible and untrue." This was done by letter of 4-4-69, over the Director's signature.

Rowan is not carried on any of our mailing lists.

15. 1000 1000

General [redacted] General  
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
[redacted] that the FBI had no  
[redacted] to disrupt or buy  
[redacted] [redacted] that the im-  
[redacted] of these people though  
[redacted] was a security threat

contending when they killed  
the lone one man might survive  
the presidency. They saw  
power, freedom as a replica  
to the democracy, the personal  
freedom, that we have come to  
know.

...OR a more  
...man, or as con-  
...the preservation  
...and liberty as  
...suggest, he would  
...long ago. He  
...putting Presi-  
...the political bind of  
...keep him or ease

It is clear Hoover has no intention of resigning. Why does the President master the courage to say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Goodbye?"

- Cal. per \_\_\_\_\_  
Calichan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

- The Washington Post Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sunday Star (Washington) E-4
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date JUN 13 1962

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4SPM/bk  
6076

100-106670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY *SP4 JRM/ld*  
REASON FOR EXTENSION *2*  
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION *6-19-82*  
*6076*

11:06 AM

June 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. SULLIVAN  
MR. BISHOP

Mr. Newbold Noyes, Editor of The Evening Star called. He said he thanked me very much for talking to him because he knew this was an unusual kind of thing to have happen. *M.H.L.*

He said he wanted to ask me very seriously, but he was sure I was familiar with this and given thought to it already, but he wanted to report on the basis of their story that was run yesterday about the authorization that the FBI had from Mr. Robert Kennedy, to release the King material; that they are getting a great deal of static from people who are telling them -- they say they have this authorization, but they don't release it and don't show what the documents are and many of these documents that have been released in the past are fuzzy and don't really show there was clear authorization to do this and in general there is a nondisposition on the part of the readers to accept the idea that Bob Kennedy actually did authorize the tapping of King's phone. He said, "Now I just want to ask you as seriously as I can to release those documents. You have them. They do show, I presume, exactly what you say."

*• Martin Luther King*

I told Mr. Noyes that he authorized it in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963; it was installed November 8, 1963, and discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that, as a matter of fact, when Kennedy was Attorney General he requested that the telephones of Dr. King be covered by electronic device and was persuaded by our people not to do it in view of the possible repercussions, then later he changed his mind and delayed bringing the matter up again until in October the authority was signed by him in his own handwriting and it gave us the authority to do it and we discontinued it on April 30, 1965, under the administration of Attorney General Katzenbach. Mr. Noyes said he understood and asked if they could report this. I told him he could report what I have said to him. I told him the reason I was drawing a

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JH:edm (8)

Classified by *6080 Laltrop*  
Exempt from GDS, Category \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

NOT RECORDED 1969  
170 AUG 5 1969

79 AUG 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-5-21-868

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1963

One on this is that Mr. Tolson wrote (Carl) Rowan about his slanderous column last Sunday and he, Rowan, wrote back in which he asked a series of eight or nine questions, such as, did we tap the telephone of a half dozen leaders like Wilkins of the NAACP, Farmer, eight or nine others, Abernathy; or if we had tapped the phones of a Congressman; and various other things. Mr. Noyes said he was not asking all that. I told him he could certainly print what I say because we are writing back to Rowan today that since he did not seek any facts before printing his column, he was not entitled to any information from us at this time, but as to the question he has asked, the dates that these wiretaps were on, I have the original copy of it on my desk. It was signed by Kennedy in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963.

Mr. Noyes said if I had one minute, could he repeat back to me what he understood I had said to him so there would be no misunderstanding and also could he tell me that he was adding into it some details that he thought they already understood about this from other sources they have talked to.

He said it was his understanding that in June, 1963, Mr. Kennedy did suggest through a liaison man that he had with me, that I should keep an eye on Martin Luther King because of his association with people that he, Robert Kennedy, was concerned about and he, Noyes, was particularly talking about Stanley Levinson and a fellow named Jones, both of whom were supposed to be of Marxist leanings and that the Attorney General was concerned about King's relations with these people and he thought it might be a good idea to put an electronic surveillance device of some type into the picture to see what he was doing; that the FBI suggested at that time that this would be a difficult thing to do because of the fact that King traveled around so much and there were a lot of political repercussions that might result; but then subsequently on the 7th of November (and I corrected him and told him October 7, 1963) -- on October 7, 1963, I reported, and this is a memorandum from me to the Attorney General, a four-paragraph document, that I had determined the feasibility of establishing taps on the telephones of the SCLC headquarters at Atlanta and New York and if he authorized it, I was prepared to go ahead and do it and that came back to me, the memorandum, with his initials, I told him with his full name, Robert F. Kennedy. Mr. Noyes continued - o.k.'d by him, dating that 10/10/63. I told Mr. Noyes that was correct.

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop

June 19, 1969

Mr. Noyes continued that it was his understanding that I had no objection to his using this -- is it o.k. for them to identify the FBI as the source or flatly say it on their own. I told him I would rather he flatly said it on his own, but I anticipate similar requests from other sources that I would not be as frank with as I have been with him. Mr. Noyes said o.k.; that he thought this is a wise thing for me to do.

He said if I had one more minute, he would like to tell me one reason why he happened to be interested in this thing. He said he had some young people with whom he was friendly who were involved in a wedding this weekend and the boys and girls all ended up at his house after the thing and he did not know whether they had read Rowan's column, but they were talking about the fact how dreadful it was that the FBI would have presumed to tap the phone or keep an eye on Martin Luther King, a great hero. He said after listening to this for about an hour and a half, he told them to hold on a minute, that it was his understanding that the Bureau had been checking on King because there had been allegations that he had been in touch with recognized or potential communist agents and the reason nothing was ever released or done about it was that after checking into it, they became satisfied there was nothing dangerous and he asked them what they would think of a Government that did not check into information that seemed to show that communist agents were trying to work on a man in Martin Luther King's position. He said these kids listened and were astounded that there might be another side to it, and he was telling me that this was taken by Bobby Kennedy from the point of view of the generation gap. Mr. Noyes said he thought this is an important story. I said he became a kind of Messiah for the generation gap and individuals who were pro-King and still are.

I told Mr. Noyes that as to the matter of electronic installations, I have never authorized an electronic installation of any kind at any time except with written approval of the then Attorney General and that goes right down to today. I said I do not have authority to do it myself and I do not want it as I feel the Attorney General should be the one to approve or not approve electronic surveillances and we use it only in internal security cases and now in organized crime. I said in organized crime, the authority has to be obtained from the courts under the McClellan bill and in security cases -- espionage, communist activities -- that is approved by the Attorney General, which is

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

allowed under the McClellan Bill. I continued that the Rowan article indicated we were promiscuously continuing this sort of thing without regard to restrictions or regard to authority, so the truth of the matter is, I have never ever authorized the installation of a technical electronic device except with the approval of the Attorney General in writing and we have on file the original documents that support that statement.

Mr. Noyes said that when he first asked me, I said it was all right to cite the Bureau for the authority and then I indicated I would rather have it come from them directly. He said if, in order to give this the authority it should have, it is necessary for him to cite me for the authority for some of this, is that o.k. with me. I told him that normally I would say no; that I would defer to his judgement because he knows more about the matter of public relations and public reaction. I told him I have been astounded at the reaction on this thing. I said some of these magazines, like Newsweek, which is owned by the Washington Post, carried the Cassius Clay testimony in Texas where he is on trial and where the use of the electronic device was exposed, and they stated the Agent testified the taps were continued until King's death. I said that is untrue and the Agent did not so testify. I said in the King case, it was discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that if he thought it would be to the best interest of public relations in clearing up any really serious doubts newspaper people have, I would have no objection to being quoted.

Mr. Noyes said he thanked me and he thought I was making a wise decision in letting it come out. He said he thought it may be one of the most important stories of the year.

I told Mr. Noyes that when I read the Sunday paper and Rowan's article I thought here is an individual who is a Messiah of the dissident left, of which Rowan is a part, and yet it was done at the instance of Bobby Kennedy, who later became a great friend of King's, notwithstanding he knew all the facts, as I kept him advised as well as every Attorney General since.

Mr. Noyes said there is one thing about this I should consider and that is that he has the gist of what is in these things from me, but I will be

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

asked immediately to release them textually. He said he thought I ought to do it. I told him I would have to get the authority of the Attorney General for that. Mr. Noyes said that is another problem, but the text ought to come out. He said it is very well for me to say what is in them, but the text ought to come out. I told him I realized that. He said he thought once before we had put out photostats.

I told him a Congressman, Gross, made inquiry in regard to some of Kennedy's authorizations before he died and after he left the Attorney Generalship. I said he denied he had approved certain authorizations and I sent to the Congressman Xerox copies of the authorization signed by Kennedy, as he being a Congressman, I felt he was entitled to it, and then Attorney General approved. I said in this instance, if we get a request from a Congressman or Senator along the lines he indicated, I would submit it to the Attorney General with my recommendation. Mr. Noyes said I was going to get an immediate request -- within the next couple of hours or as soon as he can get this out -- from every news media for the text. I told him these were confidential documents of the Department and can only be released as to the text by the Attorney General.

Mr. Noyes thanked me.

1:08 PM

[REDACTED]

b(1)

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



1969

REC-38

100-106670-3637

b7(c)

New York 11590

Dear

I have received your letter of June

27th. The interest which prompted you to write and bring the excerpts from "The New York Times" to my attention is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bufiles contain previous outgoing to [redacted] 3-13-68 in response to his inquiry on the topic of communism. CEE:cs (3)

b7(c)

MAILED 22

JUL 3 - 1969

COMM-FBI

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

TELETYPE UNIT

N. Y. 11596

b7(c)

7, 1969

J. Edgar Hoover  
United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMM/LL  
b276

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have been reading of your problems concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone. Your opponents are, in effect, accusing you of having perpetrated a great injustice on Dr. Martin Luther King, who was supposedly a great American and a great believer in democracy.

I would suggest that you call to the attention of your opponents and newsmen the following excerpts that appeared in the New York Times prior to Dr. King's death. Tell them to let the record speak for itself.

From the New York Times:

"Dr. King again urged young men to file as conscientious objectors and refuse to fight for the United States which he described as the 'greatest purveyor of violence in the world today'....."

Dr. King said: "The United States is on the wrong side of the revolutionary movement of oppressed people throughout the world."

REC-38

100-106670-3637

The civil rights leader asserted that the United States policy on Vietnam had been wrong since 1946. He said that this country had supported the French in Indo-China rather than the independence leader, Ho Chi Minh. He said "when France lost its war, the United States selected one dictator after another to prevent Ho Chi Minh from becoming the head of Vietnam". "Elections would surely have brought to power Ho Chi Minh over a united Vietnam", he said.

In another article in the New York Times, we read the following:  
In his (Dr. King's) address, which was sponsored by the Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Dr. King likened the use of new American weapons on the peasants of Vietnam to the Germans' tactics.

ACK 7/3/69 JEF/8

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover - page 2.

of "medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps  
or escape"

His record speaks for itself.

Very truly yours,

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP-6 JRS/...

REC-54 100-100000-36

[REDACTED]  
Freeport, Texas 77541

b7(C)

Dear [REDACTED]

CD. [Signature]  
[Signature]

Mr. Hoover has your letter of June 24th  
and asked me to advise you that the article from the June 19,  
1969, issue of "The Evening Star" which was previously furnished  
to you speaks for itself. He has no further comment to make regard-  
ing this matter.

MAILED 10  
JUL 2 - 1969  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Heien W. Gandy  
Secretary

V  
b7(C) [Signature]

NOTE: Bufiles disclose in April, 1968, [REDACTED] of  
Texas appeared on a list of individuals expressing opposition to the Vietnam  
war. He wrote on June 16, 1969, regarding the Martin Luther King wiretap  
controversy and by letter 6/20/69 we sent him the 6/19/69 issue of "The  
Evening Star" and advised him that it set forth our position in that matter.  
He apparently did not read the article carefully as he wonders where we got  
the authority between September, 1964, and April, 1968, and the article  
clearly states the wiretaps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. He  
apparently desires to get into a hassle regarding this and it is felt the above  
reply is appropriate.

4  
Rel  
[List of names: Tolson, Belmont, Mohr, DeLoach, Casper, Callahan, Conrad, Felt, Gale, Rosen, Sullivan, Tavel, Trotter, Tele. Room, Holmes, Gandy]

[Signatures]

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP-1 [signature] 1907

[redacted] b7(c)  
Houston, Texas 77541  
June 24, 1969 Hs.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of June 20th explaining the FBI's position concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone.

I still would appreciate a clarification on the following: Robert Kennedy resigned as Attorney General in September, 1964, but an FBI agent recently testified in federal court that the wiretap continued until King's death in 1968. If neither Nicholas Katzenbach nor Ramsey Clark gave permission for such a wiretap, where did the FBI get such authority between September, 1964 and April, 1968? Is it common practice for the FBI to carry on such activities without the knowledge of the Attorney General?

As a citizen of this country and as one who is concerned about the increasing invasion of privacy, I feel that you owe us further explanation.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted signature]

b7(c)

REC-54

JUN 27 1969

REC-54

100 1064-0-3636

JUL 8 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan  
 1 - Mr. Mohr  
 1 - Mr. Bishop  
 1 - Mr. Casper  
 1 - Mr. Callahan  
 1 - Mr. Conrad  
 1 - Mr. Felt  
 1 - Mr. Gale  
 1 - Mr. Rosen  
 1 - Mr. Sullivan  
 1 - Mr. Tavel  
 1 - Mr. Trotter  
 1 - Tele. Room  
 1 - Mr. Holmes  
 1 - Gandy

July 3, 1969

REC 45

3635

Honorable Robert L. Leggett  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of July 1, 1969, has been received.

While I certainly appreciate your interest, other than the enclosed newspaper article, it is not possible for me to furnish you any information since data in our files is confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret that I cannot be of assistance in this instance.

Sincerely yours,  
 J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22  
 JUL 3 - 1969  
 COMM-FBI

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMD/MLH

NOTE: See memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan 7/2/69 regarding "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist" prepared by JJD:fsh.

Newspaper article being sent to Leggett is the one which appeared in the Evening Star 6/19/69 entitled "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea"

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JJD:ekv  
 (8)

JUL 23 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE  
COMMITTEE ON

COMMITTEES ON  
ARMED SERVICES  
MERCHANT MARINE AND  
FISHERIES

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
ROOM 225  
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
202/225-5716

OWEN CHAFFEE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

July 1, 1969

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am becoming increasingly concerned over recent reports relating to the late Martin Luther King, Jr.'s alleged affiliation with known Communists and Communist-front organizations. The current controversy has unfortunately obfuscated the historical record concerning Dr. King's activities in the Civil Rights Movement.

In an effort to separate fact from fiction, I would very much appreciate a comprehensive briefing concerning this matter at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours very truly,

*Robert L. Leggett*  
ROBERT L. LEGGETT  
Member of Congress

RLL:am

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JML/6076

REC 45

100 106670-3635, 1-  
8  
10 JUL 2 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

EXP. PROC.  
32 JUL 2 1969

100-106670-3634  
**CHANGED TO**  
67-149000-3386

**JUL 18 1969**

*S. Am.*



Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

435 West 117th Street

Page 2

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of June 18. I am disturbed by comments that my letter to the New York Times contained "unwarranted" of the F.B.I. and "unfounded charges." My use of the question as the central part of that letter was meant to be honest, not evasive. At the time, I did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether, putting aside the legal implications of the Federal Communications Act, there were sufficient reasons to justify it. As to the former question, subsequent statements have clarified the matter a good deal (though to my knowledge, it has still not been explicitly stated that all tapping did stop when the authorization expired). In regard to the latter question, it may be that it is impossible to put before the public enough information about the reasons for the tapping for interested private citizens to make a judgment on its advisability, but so far as I am aware no statements have been made since my letter that would quiet my doubts on that score.

I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear. Perhaps the basic question is how broadly that view should be interpreted when something as serious as continued wiretapping absent judicial approval is involved.

Sincerely yours,

*Kent Greenawalt*  
Kent Greenawalt

REC-71

5 JUL 7 1969

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMD/ML  
6076

WC/ark

JUL 3 1969

DEERS. REC. UNIT

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Memorandum

Mr. Bishop *TJB*

M. A. Jones *AM*

SUBJECT: KENT GREENAWALT  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LAW  
CRITICISM OF MR. HOOVER AND  
WIRETAPPING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference my memorandum to you of 6/11/69 captioned as above, in which it was approved by the Director answer critical letter to the Editor of "The New York Times" by Greenawalt which appeared in the 6/14/69 issue of that newspaper. Accordingly, by letter of 6/18/69, the Director transmitted to Greenawalt copy of Mr. Tolson's letter to Carl T. Rowan regarding Rowan's unfounded charges concerning wire-tapping.

By letter of 6/23/69, Mr. Greenawalt acknowledged the Director's letter and indicated that at the time he wrote his original letter, he "did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether...there were sufficient reasons to justify it." He then indicates that the former question has been "clarified" a good deal, and, though he still has some doubts concerning the latter question, he can see that it may not be possible to disclose enough information at this time for it to be completely explained to the public. Greenawalt finally states: "I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear."

OBSERVATION:

In view of the generally conciliatory tone of Greenawalt's letter, it would seem advisable to let this matter now rest since there would be little purpose in further pursuing the discussion with Greenawalt.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no further correspondence be undertaken with Mr. Greenawalt on this matter, and, accordingly, his letter not be answered.

66 JUL 24 1969  
TDB:et

Mr. Gale  
Mr. Sullivan

*TJB*  
PERS. REC. UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JDM/ML

July 1, 1969

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-11/11/81  
ON 2-14-81

Dear Mr. President:

For your information there is attached a copy of a Memorandum for the Attorney General dated October 10, 1963, requesting that authority be granted to place electronic surveillance (wire tap) on Martin Luther King, Jr. at his current address, or at any future address to which he may move. This was approved by the Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy on October 10, 1963.

There is also attached a copy of a memorandum dated July 16, 1963, from Mr. Courtney A. Evans, then Assistant Director of this Bureau, to Mr. Belmont, former Assistant to the Director, indicating a discussion concerning the wire tap at which time Mr. Kennedy stated any repercussions which should become known as a result of such a surveillance did not concern him at all, that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation he thought it was advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. On July 22, 1963, Mr. Kennedy returned a request for a wire tap on King at which time he informed former Assistant Director Evans orally that he was withdrawing his previous request because of the reasons Mr. Evans had outlined to him previously.

As stated above, Mr. Kennedy later approved the placing of the wire tap on October 10, 1963.

Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

ENCLOSURE

JUL 8 1969

3 JUL 7 1969

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

Also attached is a letter memorandum dated September 20, 1963, written by Robert Marshall, then Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, to me as Director of the Bureau, relating that both the Attorney General and the President had separately strongly urged Dr. King that there should be no further connection between Hunter Pitts O'Dell and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This also indicates that King was informed that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party and that this was done at the direction of the Attorney General and the President. The Attorney General at that time was the late Robert F. Kennedy and the President was the late John F. Kennedy.

Sincerely yours,

*Signed*  
*Edgar*

Enclosures

CT:LCB

*McDonnell*

TO : Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: September 20,

FROM : Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Hunter Pitts O'Dell

This relates to your letterhead memorandum of September 5 to the Attorney General, relating to Hunter Pitts O'Dell and the related prior memoranda. I appreciate your having sent copies of these to me.

This matter had been brought to the attention of Dr. King some time ago by me, but in accordance with conversations which the Attorney General had with Courtney Evans, it was not felt to be wise in view of the sources of the Bureau's information to state that I knew O'Dell to be under Communist influence or control at any time. I did inform Dr. King and two members of his organization -- Reverend Andrew Young and Reverend Wyatt Walker -- some time ago -- that since O'Dell was believed by many people to have had Communist connections, his association with their organization was not in the best interests of the organization.

At that time, inconclusive steps were taken to remove O'Dell, and his job with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was changed. In response to direct questions whether I had hard evidence of O'Dell's Communist connections, however, I replied that I was not in a position to give any.

Following further conversations with Mr. Evans in June, however, I brought the matter to the attention of Dr. King very explicitly in my office on the morning of June 22 prior to a scheduled meeting which Dr. King had with the President. This was done at the direction of the Attorney General. Later that morning both the Attorney General and the President separately strongly urged Dr. King that there should be no further connection between O'Dell and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

DECLASSIFIED BY  
6076

W 18

100 106670-3631

ENCLOSURE

...stated that the ... on would be ...  
...stated that the ... on would be ...  
...stated that the ... on would be ...

...same occasion ...  
...information ... Levison  
...member of the Communist ...  
...done after conversation with Mr. Evans  
...meeting with Dr. King, ... done at  
...of the Attorney General ... the  
...Prior to that time, again based upon  
...the Attorney General and Mr. Evans at  
...present, it had been decided that it  
...the best interest of the United States to  
...King that we had any firm information  
...was under Communist control. I had,  
...on a previous occasion, warned Dr. King  
...association with Levison, basing the  
...upon doubts about Levison's loyalty to the  
...United States.

I thought you should have this additional  
information for your file.

cc: The Attorney General  
The Deputy Attorney General

7/16/63

FROM

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMD  
ON 2-14-81

SUBJECT

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE  
RACIAL MATTERS

6076

The AG was contacted at his request late this afternoon. He stated that Clarence Benjamin Jones, a NY attorney who had close association with Martin Luther King and with Stanley Levinson (a communist), had been in to see Burke Marshall about the racial situation. According to the AG, Jones had indicated he had some reservations about talking with Levinson on the phone. Marshall thought he might have been referring to a possible telephone tap, and passed it off by telling Jones this was something he would have to take up with Levinson. (LEVINSON)

The purpose of the AG's contact was that this brought to his attention the possibility of effecting technical coverage on both Jones and Martin Luther King. I told the AG that I was not at all acquainted with Jones, but that, in so far as King was concerned, it was obvious from the reports that he was in a travel status practically all the time, and it was, therefore, doubtful that a technical surveillance on his office or home would be very productive. I also raised the question as to the repercussions if it should ever become known that such a surveillance had been put on King. u

The AG said this did not concern him at all; that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation, he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. I told him, under the circumstances, that we would check into the matter to see if coverage was feasible and, if so, would submit an appropriate recommendation to him. u

If you approve, we will have a preliminary survey if technical coverage is feasible with full security.

Classified by 100

Exempt from GDS

Date of Declassification

ENCLOSURE

SECRET

JUL 8 1963

100 106670-3631

STATE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN  
RACIAL MATTERS



b(1)

It is further requested that authority be granted to place a technical surveillance on the SCLC office at the current New York address or to any other address to which it may be moved.

Respectfully,

*[Signature]*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director  
ENCLOSURE

APPROVED

DATE

10/10/63

Classified by 60652ad/rnp

Exempt from GDS, Category 2

Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/20/77

5 NOV 7 1963

JUL 8 1969



July 3, 1969

100-106670-  
Honorable James L. Bracken  
Managing Editor  
The Spokesman-Review  
Spokane, Washington 99210

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4 JH

Dear Mr. Bracken:

Mr. James E. Milnes, Special Agent in  
Charge of our Seattle Office, has furnished me the edito-  
rial, "Hoover Is Upheld in Wiretap Dispute," from the  
June 26th edition of your paper. I want to express my  
thanks for your kind remarks and hope that my future  
efforts as Director of the FBI will continue to merit your  
approbation. Your staunch support is indeed appreciated  
and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Seattle  
Reurlet 6/27/69

NOTE: Mr. Bracken is on the Special Correspondents List. This  
letter recommended by the SAC, Seattle.

CEE:cam (5)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

59 JUL 15 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN

6/27/69

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

I am attaching an editorial which appeared in the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, Washington, on June 26, 1969, dealing with the current discussion with respect to the captioned individual.

In view of his strong support of you and the Bureau's position, I thought perhaps you may desire to address a letter to Mr. JAMES BRACKEN, Editor of the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, expressing the Bureau's appreciation for his support. Mr. BRACKEN has always been a strong supporter of the Bureau and has editorialized very favorably concerning you and the Bureau on a number of occasions. There is certainly nothing unfavorable here about him.

Enclosure

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JEM/ML  
6070

100-106670-  
NOT RECORDED  
183 JUL 10 1969

ENCLOSURE

ORIGINAL FILED IN

ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-17-81 BY SP4JRM/ML  
6570

## CLARENCE B. SPENCER

has been made within  
the retirement of  
member of the Federal

the normal retire-  
ment kept in his position  
special presidential  
have been con-  
at the White House  
in 1964.

action at office, how-  
ever, that attorney  
who has recently  
of the late Robert F.  
attorney general under the  
of the mother, President John

at issue is the revived contro-  
versy over surveillance made  
during the Kennedy adminis-  
tration, specifically the "wiretapping"  
authorized by Robert  
Kennedy in touch with the activi-  
ties of Martin Luther King Jr., claim-  
ing to be leader.

Mr. King had been a controversial figure  
during a period of his professional career.  
Apparently had been doubts in the  
Department of Justice as to his associates  
and their motives.

The recent new attacks against Mr. Hoover  
—who has long been under attack by Com-  
munist and subversives in this country—  
were sparked by Mr. Hoover's remarks that  
the FBI did not top leaders of Mr. King  
either, he expressed approval of then-Atty.  
Gen. Kennedy. This was done in accordance  
with legal requirements.

the question of personal in-  
volvement in the dispute, and the op-  
inion of Mr. Hoover have been trying to  
be on that basis.

It is therefore refreshing to see Mr. Hoover  
supported by President Nixon, who, de-  
clared the other day that he had "checked"  
personally" and had found that Robert Ken-  
nedy as attorney general did authorize the  
FBI wiretapping of Mr. King.

If the current controversy over several men  
who are no longer living seems out of date  
and rather futile, it should be remembered  
that FBI Director Hoover's reputation is the  
point at issue.

Some of his opponents would like to drive  
him from public office. Naturally, he is quite  
unwilling to concede some sort of wrong-  
doing when he knows he was right and truth-  
ful.

The way in which Mr. Nixon has upheld  
Mr. Hoover should certainly receive far greater  
public credence than the questionable  
suggestion coming from Mr. Clark.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)

4 Spokesman-Review  
Spokane, Wash.

Date: 6/26/69  
Edition: final  
Author:  
Editor: JAMES BRACKEN  
Title: DR. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING

Character:  
or

Classification:  
Submitting Office: SEATTLE

☐ Being Investigated

100-106670-

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3430

**CHANGED TO**

63-15519-X

MAR 9 1972

YMH / Ceq

June 30, 1969

REC-24

100-1062

AP

[REDACTED]

6076

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Chicago, Illinois 60633

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JPM/kl

b7(c)

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June 22nd and want to thank you for your kind remarks regarding the FBI. In view of your interest, I am enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in the June 19, 1969, issue of "The Evening Star," Washington, D. C., which concerns our activities relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. and sets forth the FBI's position in this matter.

MAILED 22  
JUN 30 1969  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

*[Handwritten signature]*

Enclosure

"The Evening Star" article entitled, "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea,"  
6/19/69

NOTE: Based upon available information, Bufiles contain no record identifiable to correspondent or his organization.

DMG:kas (3)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

70 JUL 21 1969

REC'D - READING

MM 55 4 PM 6/30/69

*[Handwritten signature]*

b7(c)

CHICAGO, ILL. 60636

June 22, 1969

Director J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Hoover,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-24-81 BY SP4 JPM/ld  
6070

Our association with nearly 1200 members stands solidly behind you and the FBI in recent criticism of the wire tapping on the phones of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in their unending fight to protect our country from subversives had every right to use any means available to keep the "non-violent" Dr. King under a careful watch.

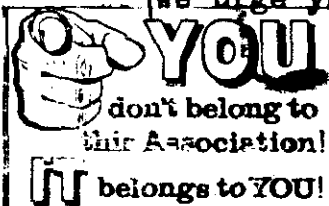
There have been too many politicians and prominent Americans in their "white towers" made of ivory who proclaimed that the late Dr. King was a fine humanitarian.

However, we the citizens of our area who have always used the special faculty of common sense, have always believed Dr. King to be a danger to the society of America and a threat to the future of our great country.

Dr. Martin Luther King was hand picked by the communist party of America and had groomed him to begin the "revolution" that is now beginning in our country. He attended training classes in the company of high-ranking Communist Party officials at the notorious (now defunct) Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.

The communist party had carefully planned his march in Selma, Ala. along with the operational control of the civil rights movement. The "fantasy" of his "non-violent" status had become a perfect cloak of disguise - so perfect it fooled presidents, congressmen, clergy, statesmen, cabinet members and his own people.

We urge you, now that the wire tapping has become public, to issue a report de-classifying the communist link and Dr. King and make this information public. Our American heritage and our future may depend on it.



ack: 6/30/69 b7(c) Sincerely yours,

REC-24

100-106670-3628

b7(c)

Buffalo, New York 14223

Dear [REDACTED]

It was kind of you to write on June 23rd and comment as you did concerning my administration of this Bureau. The thoughtful remarks of you and your husband mean a great deal to me and I want you to know of my appreciation.

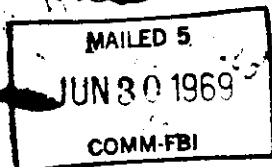
Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JEN/ML  
60766

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no information identifiable to correspondent.

LMG:kas (3)

Kas



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

66 JUL 24 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JUL 1 15 00 1969

TEB  
F

June 23 1969

Edgar Hoover

Sir:

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Several years ago on T. V. we heard Robert Kennedy say, when asked whether he had ordered a wiretap on King, that he couldn't remember. He used that same excuse many times when asked about something that would prove to be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.

No one needed a wire tap on King at any time to know that he was timing his wife. Rumor was rife all over this country. The usual Russian gambit is to use a woman to undermine any man they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect. He was also a phoney and if he had lived a few more years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living American and we hope you never resign. Most of the people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters and as you know, they usually don't have much respect for anyone in public office these days. We are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too) appreciate your loyalty & ability.

This note does not require an answer, sir. Thank you for reading this.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ld  
6076

Sincerely yours,

Buffalo 23 N. Y. 14223

REC-24

100-106670-3628

1 JUL 3 1969

ack/mml

6/30/69

LAC Las

mml

COPIES:hcv

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

EXP. PROC.

JUN 25 1969



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

44-  
J. Edgar Hoover  
Sir

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JLM/ML

607b

Several years ago on T.V. we heard  
Kennedy say, when asked whether he had  
had a wire tap on King, that he couldn't  
remember. He used that same excuse many times  
when asked about something that could prove to  
be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.

No one needed a wire tap on King at any time  
to know that he was two-timing his wife. Rumor  
was rife all over this country. The usual Russian  
game bit is to use a woman to undermine any man  
they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect.  
He was also a phoney and if he had lived a few more  
years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living  
American and we hope you never resign. Most of the  
people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters  
and as you know, they usually don't have much  
respect for anyone in public office these days. We  
are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too)  
appreciate your loyalty & ability.

This note does not require an answer, Sir. Thank  
you for reading this.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

b7(c)

June 23 1969

145 Dalton Dr. Buffalo 23 N.Y.

ack/ [unclear]  
6/30/69  
LMO kas

8/15

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : MR. DE LOACH

FROM : J. H. [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY  
SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 15-47-42  
SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

1 - Mr. Gale  
1 - Mr. Eddy  
1 - Mr. Devic

This is to explain the [redacted] which copies were made of the logs maintained on the electronic surveillance on the residence of Martin Luther King who [redacted] handwritten notation was deleted from the xerox copy.

SAC Frank Hitt, Atlanta, [redacted] that xerox copies of the pertinent logs were made by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] stated that he removed by blocking out the handwritten notation "sum up in memo" and also the lower portion of the date stamp block containing FBI Atlanta and the written name of SA Nichols and Nichols' initials. He stated that this was done because in his opinion this did not constitute a change or alteration of the facts set forth in the log and it was not pertinent, significant or of value to the substance of the information. In summary, SA [redacted] felt that the deletions fell in the category of administrative notations of internal Bureau interest only. SA [redacted] stated he did not advise his superiors nor the Bureau of the deletions because he was of the opinion that he was performing his assignment properly.

At the time the copies of the logs in question were submitted to the Bureau by the Atlanta office, the procedure was to have these logs reviewed at the field level. As of today, in accordance with your instructions, these logs are being reviewed at the Seat of Government prior to dissemination. We have had some highly productive electronic surveillances where logs running into several thousand pages have been maintained and if, in the future, such an extensive undertaking is indicated by a request for material of this nature, it will be called to your attention.

CONCLUSION: 1. SA [redacted] was incorrect in believing that the phrase "sum up in memo" which he blocked out fell in the category of administrative material which should be deleted in disseminating copies of Bureau communications to outside agencies. It is the recommendation of the Special Investigative Division and the SAC, Atlanta, concurs, that SA [redacted] should receive a letter of censure for his handling of this situation.

NOT RECORDED

CONTINUED OVER JUL 15 1963

ORIGINAL FILED IN 6

b7(c)

b7(c)

53 JUL 17 1963

6/25

RE: [redacted] each  
[redacted] Clay

ACR:

2. [redacted] recurrence of this situation the field is being reminded by letter to all SACs that no deletions are to be made when xerox copies are prepared from logs maintained on electronic surveillances.

*HTW*

*✓*  
*10/10/71*  
*DJS*

*JH/10/71*

# FBI Changed Log<sup>3</sup> Of Wiretap on Clay

The government has admitted the FBI changed—without informing the Justice Department—a recorded log of wiretapped conversations involving former heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay.

In disclosing this to Clay's attorneys, the Department yesterday contended it did not learn of the FBI action until June 13, several days after copies of what were purported to be the original logs were filed in the U.S. District Court in Houston.

John S. Martin Jr. and Michael T. Epstein, who are handling the Government's case against Clay, said the original record contained the notation, "Sum up in memo."

But the hand-written phrase was blanked out on documents submitted to the court concerning a Sept. 4, 1964, telephone conversation between Clay and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancy came to light when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied with copies, demanded to see the original transcripts. Epstein and Martin then checked with the FBI and found the penned-in portion was left off copies submitted in court.

No reason was given for the omission. The FBI had no comment. And special FBI Agent Robert R. Nichols, who supervised the tap on King's telephone, claimed in an affidavit the notation was of no consequence.

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DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/wh

6071

The Washington Post Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_  
Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

JUN 24 1969

Date \_\_\_\_\_

100-106670-

ENCLOSURE

Record by

...has admitted... without in-... and special FBI agent... Justice Robert R. Nichols, who super-... recorded log of... the... on King's tele-... conversations invol-... heavyweight boxing... the notation was of no conse-... quence.

...this to Clay's at-... Monday... did not learn of the... June 13, several... copies of what were... to be the original logs... in U.S. District Court... in... .

John S. Martin Jr. and Mi-... chael T. Epstein, who are han-... dling the government's case... said the original... contained the notation... "summary memo."

However, the hand-written... was blanked out on docu-... ments submitted to the court... concerning a Sept. 4, 1964, tele-... phone conversation between... Clay and Dr. Martin Luther... King Jr.

The discrepancy came to light... when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied... with copies, demanded to see the... original transcripts. Epstein and... Martin then checked with the... court... found the penned-in... was left off copies sub-... mitted in court.

Government attorneys were... happy about the affair, ex-... pressing concern that the differ-... ences would cast doubts on the... validity of the documents them-... selves.

No reason was given for... decision. The FBI had no con-... sideration without in-... and special FBI agent... Justice Robert R. Nichols, who super-... recorded log of... the... on King's tele-... conversations invol-... heavyweight boxing... the notation was of no conse-... quence.

"When I initially scanned this... log," Nichols said, "I made the... handwritten notation 'Sum up in... memo,' as a flag to myself to... consider this as an item to be... placed in memorandum form."

"Upon subsequent detailed re-... view of the entire log and evalua-... tion of its contents," he added, "I decided the substance of the... information did not warrant the... preparation of a memorandum."

As summarized in the record, the conversation Nichols consid-... ered unimportant was one in... which Clay advised King to... "watch out for them whities."

Clay, sentenced to five years'... imprisonment for refusing in-... duction into the armed forces, is... seeking further federal court... hearings in an effort to overturn... his conviction.

*Eddy*

*When and going to get the photo on file?*

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
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- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

- The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_
- Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) *D-2*
- The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_
- New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/MLK  
6076

Date \_\_\_\_\_

J.H. White to Mr. Eric Fouch  
memo 6/24/69 ABE:CSB:dy  
J.H. White to Mr. DeLoach  
memo 6/24/69 ABE:imam

100-106670-  
ENCLOSURE

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

# Attorneys Dispute King Wiretapping

Heavy-duty wiretapping was authorized by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, according to a new FBI report. The report, which was filed in the late 1960s, says that the late president's attorney general, Robert F. Kennedy, approved the wiretapping of King Jr. The report also says that the attorney general approved the wiretapping of other leaders of the civil rights movement.

Attorneys are seeking to get the wiretap information out of the government, but the government has avoided making any disclosure. The Clay hearing, which the fighter won, resulted in his conviction and a five-year sentence for the wiretapping. The government touched off the wiretapping by over FBI wiretapping.

In these Houston hearings, the government admitted that it had wiretapped the telephone of King Jr. and that it had wiretapped the home of Elijah Muhammad.

By this reporter, the FBI to claim that the late Robert F. Kennedy, as attorney general, both approved and authorized the wiretapping of King's phones. Kennedy's successor as attorney general, Nicholas de B. Katzenbach, and his successor, Ramsey Clark, have both disputed the FBI claim that Kennedy approved the wiretap on King, although they acknowledge that he approved it.

The brief filed in Houston compels the government to produce documents, wiretap transcripts and other information.

Some of the contradictions that are at issue: The report told The Star that

he had memoranda signed by Kennedy authorizing the wiretaps on King.

Kennedy resigned as attorney general on Sept. 3, 1964, but Hoover told The Star that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

Since Katzenbach and Clark deny approving any King wiretaps, who approved FBI eavesdropping during the almost eight months after Kennedy left the attorney generalship?

2. The federal court brief claims that either Hoover lied in saying that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965, or else FBI Special Agent Robert Nichols perjured himself in his Houston testimony.

"It was Special Agent Nichols who stated that the King wiretap had continued until April 4, 1968, the day of Dr. King's assassination," the brief states.

(The transcript of Nichols' testimony has not been printed, so the brief reflects the memory of Clay's lawyer, Charles Morgan Jr., of Atlanta, and his associates. The New York Times has reported Nichols as testifying that he was in charge of the surveillance of King until May 1965 "and it was my understanding that it went on after that.")

3. The Star quoted Hoover as saying that on Oct. 7, 1963, he reported to Kennedy that it was technically feasible to wiretap telephones at headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta and at an unnamed location in New York.

But testimony in the U.S. District Court in Houston shows the government exhibiting a log purported to be the result of a wiretap of King's home telephone.

This raises the question of how many King taps the FBI had, and which ones were approved by Kennedy or anyone else.

Office \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Tapp \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/4  
6076

*I have already  
asked about this  
testimony but have  
not yet received an  
answer.*

The Washington Post  
Times Herald  
The Washington Daily News  
The Evening Star (Washington)  
The Sunday Star (Washington)  
Daily News (New York)  
Sunday News (New York)  
New York Post  
The New York Times  
The Sun (Baltimore)  
The Daily World  
The New Leader  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
People's World  
Examiner (Washington)

Date JUN 23 1969

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200 (SUN)

Date of Mail 6-9-69

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject JUNE MAIL *Martin Luther King*

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File Number 100-106670-3627

Perma <sup>150</sup> Charge Out

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# Didn't OK King Tap Clark Says

By Ronald J. Ostrow and  
Nicholas C. Chriss  
Los Angeles Times

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that while he headed the Justice Department, the FBI had no authorization to wiretap or bug the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In an interview, Clark said: "The implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat are outrageous."

Clark also denied that he ever had authorized the FBI to bug or wiretap Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims.

Clark's statement raises the question of whether the FBI acted without authority in conducting electronic surveillance of the two Negro leaders while Clark was in office. It also suggests that the FBI may have violated the 1965 Executive Order by President Johnson providing that no wire tapping "shall be undertaken or continued without first obtaining the approval of the Attorney General."

The first official acknowledgement that Dr. King and Muhammad had been monitored came last week in Houston during a Federal court hearing on the appeal by former heavyweight champion Cassius Clay of his 1967 draft refusal conviction.

Clay contends that FBI eavesdropping on his conversations with Dr. King and Muhammad tainted his conviction.

Confirmation that Dr. King's home was tapped from 1964 until around the time of his assassination, April 4, 1968, came from FBI agent Robert Nichols. Asked if the tap continued until the assassination date, Nichols nodded.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-14-81 BY 302

Who did authorize the  
King & Muhammad  
tapes?

The Washington Post Times Herald  
The Washington Daily News  
The Evening Star (Washington)  
The Sunday Star (Washington)  
Daily News (New York)  
Sunday News (New York)  
New York Post  
The New York Times  
The Sun (Baltimore)  
The Daily World  
The New Leader  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
People's World  
Examiner (Washington)  
100-106670-3626  
3 JUL 8 1969  
JUN 8 1969

FBI headquarters issued a statement late Friday referring newsmen to Director J. Edgar Hoover's testimony before a House subcommittee on appropriations in the years 1965 through 1968.

Hoover testified then that the taps all were authorized in advance and in writing by Attorney General then in office. A Justice Department spokesman termed Hoover's testimony "accurate in every respect."

Clark said he required the FBI, over whom he was the nominal superior, to give him every three months a list of individuals under electronic surveillance.

The names of Dr. King and Muhammad never appeared on such a list, he said.

79 JUL 11 1969

JUL 7 1969

MEMO IS IN PREPARATION

file-5-34

Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy  
Sullivan  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

SEE MEMO ADDED TO SULLIVAN 6/10/69

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Date of Mail 6-10-69

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See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject

JUNE MAIL

*Martin Luther King*

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98 JUL 22 1969

File Number

100-106670-3625

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6/21/69

has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

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SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject

JUNE MAIL-

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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File Number 100-106670-3624

FBI

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EX-103

Archie, Texas 78704

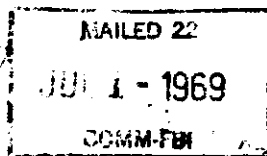
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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JPM/ML

6076

I have received your communication of June 24th,  
with enclosure, and certainly appreciate your kind remarks and  
sentiments regarding my administration of the FBI. I hope that  
our future efforts will continue to merit your approval. In view  
of your concern, I am enclosing an article which sets forth the  
FBI's position concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., wiretap  
controversy.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover



Enclosure

"The Evening Star" article regarding King wiretap, 6-19-69

REC'D - READING ROOM

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SEARCHED 4724

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

b7(c)

Austin, Texas 78704  
June 24, 1969

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your selfless service toward law and order in this nation, and the preservation of the Constitution. I am sure that there have been many heart-breaking moments for you in your years of service due to Supreme Court decisions, politically motivated acts, and unfair criticism by uninformed individuals. This country is fortunate in that we have had someone with your ability and integrity. We humbly ask that you remain as long as you feel physically able, for America is sorely in need of worthy leaders.

The enclosed article has eaten upon my heart like a cancer. Isn't there some way that the truth about King and some of the Conspiracy can be published? It is time that the myth that surrounds him is ended and the public is informed as to what he was up to. There are a lot of Black Militants in this area, and gun registration won't stop their intentions. Concerned citizens are keeping their eyes OPEN.

A Grateful Citizen

b7(c)

7/187

MARTIN LUTHER KING

1-ENCLOSURE  
A

EX-103

REC-26

100-106670-3623

JUL 2

JUN 27 1969

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 J20 ML  
6026

CORRESPONDENCE  
PERS. REC. UNIT

PROC.

32 JUN 27 1969

# Never To Go?

B

...society is  
...than when  
...ability to  
...threat to  
...person  
...lot of peril  
...the public  
...of it — to  
...missions of a  
...FBI wiretaps  
...of homes and  
...Department official  
...in Federal  
...that Dr. Martin  
...was under  
...surveillance in 1964  
...FBI agent who  
...this surveillance told  
...court "it was my  
...standing that it went on  
..."  
...whole truth is that Dr.  
...phones were tapped, his  
...rooms bugged, and he was  
...shadowed right up to  
...time he was slain in  
...Memphis on April 4, 1968.

...FBI agent, C. Barry  
...told the court in  
...Houston, Texas, that for four  
...solid years he had listened eight  
...hours a day, five days a week,  
...to the conversations of Elijah  
...Muhammad, leader of the Black  
...Muslims. Pickett employed both  
...a telephone wiretap and a  
...microphone planted in Mr.  
...Muhammad's home.  
...These cases of electronic  
...eavesdropping, which violate  
...both federal law and a  
...Presidential executive order,  
...were disclosed in a hearing on  
...former heavyweight boxing  
...champion Cassius Clay's effort  
...to overturn a five year prison  
...sentence for his refusal to be  
...drafted.  
...These buggings, which caught  
...some Clay conversations in  
...their "net," are but a fraction  
...of the illegal wiretaps that have  
...moved this country far closer to  
...a police state than most  
...Americans realize.

...Indi...  
...reaction... part of most  
...Americans?  
...First, there is the general FBI  
...justification for such tactics:  
..."national security."  
...Gen. Ramon...  
...s emphaticall...  
...had no authority  
...to wiretap or bug Dr. King,  
...asserts that "the implication  
...that people thought Dr. King  
...was a security threat is  
...outrageous."  
...Still, that term "national  
...security" is more powerful than  
..."motherhood," for it evokes  
...fear, and men still surrender  
...more things — including liberty  
...— out of fear than they do out  
...of love.

The puzzling...  
...Clark's statement...  
...as though he...  
...hear of the wiretapping...  
...bugging of Dr...  
...Clark possibly...  
...unaware...  
...before...  
...justifying larger...  
...by titillating some...  
...men and feeding...  
...ammunition to Sou...  
...who despised the civil...  
...leader — all by way...  
...revealing "tidbits" picked...  
...through the wiretaps...  
...buggings?  
...Was Clark unaware that  
...certain FBI officials were  
...roaming the country leaking to  
...newspaper editors poisonous

...stories about Dr. King and what  
...the buggings allegedly had  
...revealed?  
...Everybody else in Washington  
...of any consequence knew it, and  
...many deplore it, but no one  
...seemed to know how to go about  
...making the FBI bend to the  
...laws of the land.  
...There is a not-too-flippant  
...assumption in Washington that  
...J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI  
...director for 45 years because all  
...the recent Presidents have  
...assumed that he knew too much  
...about them to be replaced. So  
...not only was he not replaced by  
...any of the younger, very able  
...FBI men in the normal course  
...of things, but Presidents  
...Johnson and Nixon have felt it  
...wise or expedient to waive a  
...law saying Hoover has reached

...the rocking chair age.  
...Hoover ought to be replaced  
...as FBI director — immediately.  
...As Washington agency heads  
...go, Hoover may have done a  
...better job than most. But the  
...people of this country knew  
...something when they limited the  
...time one man might serve in  
...the Presidency. They saw  
...personal fiefdoms as inimical to  
...the democracy, the personal  
...freedom, that we have come to  
...cherish.  
...If it is dangerous to have one  
...man serve three full terms as  
...President, it is far more  
...dangerous to have one man take  
...lifetime possession of a powerful  
...police-investigative agency that  
...prods into the deepest secrets of  
...the most prominent, most  
...honored citizens and has the

...power to discredit, even  
...destroy, almost anyone. The  
...kind of abuse of and contempt  
...for the law manifest in the King  
...and Muhammad eavesdropping  
...becomes almost inevitable when  
...a man is left in a key job as  
...long as Hoover has been.  
...Were Hoover a more  
...thoughtful man, or as concerned  
...about the preservation of  
...democracy and liberty as his  
...speeches suggest, he would have  
...resigned long ago. He would not  
...keep putting Presidents in the  
...political bind of deciding to keep  
...him or ease him out.  
...It is clear Hoover has no  
...intention of resigning. So when  
...does the President muster the  
...courage to say: "Well done,  
...thou good and faithful servant.  
...Goodbye."?

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6076

100-106670 3623  
ENCLOSURE



Mr. T	
Mr. F	
Mr. E	
Mr. C	
Mr. B	
Mr. A	
Mr. K	
Mr. L	
Mr. M	
Mr. N	
Mr. O	
Mr. P	
Mr. Q	
Mr. R	
Mr. S	
Mr. T	
Mr. U	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

**AIRTEL**

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

SAC, NEW YORK (100-136585)

MARTIN LUTHER KING  
RM RACIAL MATTER

ReNYtels to Bureau 6/21/69 and 6/22/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an article appearing in the "New York Post", June 20, 1969, page 53, captioned, "ABout Hoover, King and RFK," by JAMES A. WECHSLER.

New York Office will report further information from [redacted] when obtained.

NO LHM to follow.

b(2)  
b(7)(D)

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6576

1 + 4 encl 806 D

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - New York

JB:amf  
(5)

**ENCLOSURE**

100-106670-3622

**REC-49** JUN 23 1969

**RACIAL INT. SECT.**

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6076

[MAGAZINE PAGE FIVE] 53

## About Hoover, King and RFK

JAMES A. WECHSLER

In the face of his knowledge and belief, Robert F. Kennedy did authorize the FBI's wiretapping on Martin Luther King. It was not a decision that he viewed in retrospect with any pride. That is one reason why the current FBI effort to document Kennedy's involvement in the case has a quality of posthumous obscurity.

For the issue obscured by these self-serving and belated FBI exercises in revelation is whether this outrageous intrusion was Kennedy's idea or whether it was a response to the kind of data that J. Edgar Hoover has inflicted on innumerable Attorneys General in pressing for the sanction he obtained from Kennedy.

This is no simplistic apologia for RFK. I should like to believe that he would have responded differently if the issue had been presented to him later in his life. But this cannot be proved. What I do know—on the basis of personal conversation—is that he had a deepening concern about the FBI director's role during his final years on earth and that he would almost certainly have arranged for Hoover's retirement if he had achieved the Presidency.

\* \*

What is intolerably sickening about the present succession of official and unofficial releases from Mr. Hoover's office is that they seem designed to stain the lives of both Dr. King and Bob Kennedy.

It is understandable that Mr. Hoover should feel a certain indignation about published reports that he acted on his own, and therefore lawlessly, in ordering the surveillance on Dr. King.

ENCLOSURE

So let us grant him the point that he and Robert Kennedy—as he had so many other colleagues in the same office—into ratifying a dreary snooping exercise.

— It is the unhappy history of the Justice Dept. that Hoover has for so long exerted this kind of continuous political blackmail. In this instance he communicated to Kennedy the view that King was in contact with certain suspect characters; if Kennedy ignored the warning and King proved to be a bomb thrower (rather than a victim), the FBI's skilled public relations apparatus would have quickly whispered the word to the Washington press corps that the Attorney General had capriciously rejected Hoover's plea for continuing security of this dangerous man.

In fact what Hoover "got" on King was that he had a playful quality in his life, and that the civil rights movement did not always obey the codes of private puritanism. Certainly it was also true that he met with many varieties of political men, some of them with FBI dossiers, but his essential integrity and political independence were never seriously challenged. Only the crude format of "raw" FBI material could have rendered him guilty by association.

\* \* \*

Painful as some of the irrelevant details may be, it is time that the full story be unfolded. This, I believe, is what both Dr. King and Robert Kennedy would have wanted in the light of the FBI's current release of selective information and of the apparent expansion of wiretapping under the regime of Attorney General Mitchell.

The question is not whether Martin Luther King was a personal saint, or whether Kennedy should have asked many more questions before letting Hoover run wild. It is whether the FBI should be allowed and encouraged to collect random information about public men that can eventually become weapons of blackmail.

When J. Edgar Hoover branded Dr. King "the most notorious liar in the country" after King had assailed the FBI's laggard activity in civil rights cases—King could not fight back effectively because he knew that some aspects of his personal life had been monitored by Hoover's men. This was political terrorism of the vilest sort. Now since Mr. Hoover has chosen to perpetuate the battle—against both King and Kennedy—because of his sensitivity to journalistic criticism, it is time the whole story was aired before a Congressional tribunal. The two dead men cannot be injured by such an inquest; many living men may be spared injustice and indignity at the hands of an organization that too long ago became a state within a state.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6/19/69

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have heard your statement  
that Robert Kennedy authorized you  
to tap the telephone of Rev. M. L.  
King

I thus ask: If this is true,  
then why didn't you tell this when  
Robert Kennedy was alive?

Hoping you can answer, I am

Sincerely

Taxpayer

COPY:hcv

MR. TOLSON \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. DELOACH \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. MOHR \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. BISHOP \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CASPER \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CALLAHAN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CONRAD \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. FELT \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. GALE \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. ROSEN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. SULLIVAN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. TAVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. TROTTER \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. JONES \_\_\_\_\_  
TELE. ROOM \_\_\_\_\_  
MISS HOLMES \_\_\_\_\_  
MRS. METCALF \_\_\_\_\_  
MISS GANDY \_\_\_\_\_

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ignore.  
\$

67C P/AM/lu  
S. Murphy

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

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6076

Dear Mr. Hoover

I have heard you said that  
Robert Kennedy authorized you to tap the  
telephones of Sen. M. C. Kennedy

I thus ask: If this is true, then  
why didn't you tell this to Sen.  
Robert Kennedy when alive?

Hoping you can answer soon

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

b7(c)

Tax payer

EXP. PROC.  
31 JUN 23 1963

CONFIDENTIAL

b7(c)

[Redacted block]

100-106670-3621

Re: Kennedy 11/6/72

JUN 23 1969

# Memorandum

Loa

6/69

FROM

T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

In memorandum from G. C. Moore to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 6/21/69, it was recommended and approved by the Director that Bishop personally contact Congressman H. R. Gross (R. - Iowa), with whom we have had cordial relations, with reference to his letter of June 19, 1969, and advise him that due to various ramifications involved in the King telephone surveillance, it is not possible to furnish him any additional data.

With the Director's approval, Bishop contacted Congressman Gross on the afternoon of 6/23/69. Congressman Gross was very cordial and, when Bishop advised him that it would not be possible to furnish him any additional data concerning the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King other than what has appeared in the press, he stated that he completely understood. Congressman Gross stated that his letter to the Director of June 19, 1969, was motivated solely by the desire to furnish the Director a Congressional forum if the Director wished to utilize the services of Congressman Gross in making public additional facts concerning the approval of the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King and facts concerning the communist associations and influence over Dr. King.

Congressman Gross requested that Mr. Hoover send him a brief acknowledgment of his letter of June 19, 1969, advising that it is not possible to furnish him any additional data, so that Congressman Gross may retain it in his files for record purposes in the event any inquiries should be made of him on this matter.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Congressman Gross.

Enclosure *sent 6-29-69*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gale - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones - Enclosure

TEB:jo

59 JUL 14 1969

JUN 27 1969

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EX-101

✓  
REC-11

100-106670-3620

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

159-109-651

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date June 22, 1969

Attached relates to article by James A. Wechsler which appeared in the "New York Post," a New York City daily newspaper, edition of 6/20/69. The article pertains to our special coverage on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wechsler has been a long-time critic of the Bureau and, as can be expected, this article is also critical.

Due to nature of information contained in teletype, no dissemination being made.

DATE 2-14-81

SP4 JAMIA

6076

TPD:gmt

WLS  
GCH/ah

TELETYPE  
JUN 22 1969

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

WA 1  
11 35 AM JUN 22 1969  
TO DIRECTOR (100-13679) PLAIN  
ATTN. DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE  
FROM NEW YORK (100-136585) 2P

MARTIN LUTHER KING; RACIAL MATTERS

THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF AN ARTICLE IN THE  
"NEW YORK POST" FRIDAY JUNE TWENTY, NINETEEN SIXTY  
NINE, PAGE FIFTY THREE, CAPTIONED "ABOUT HOOVER, KING  
AND RFK" BY JAMES A. WECHSLER.

KENNEDY DID AUTHORIZE A TAP ON KING. IT WAS A  
DECISION HE LATER VIEWED WITHOUT PRIDE. CURRENT FBI  
EFFORTS HAVE A QUALITY OF "POSTHUMOUS ORSENITY".

"WHAT I DO KNOW, ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL CONVERSATION,  
IS THAT HE (KENNEDY) HAD A DEEPENING CONCERN ABOUT THE  
FBI DIRECTOR'S ROLE DURING HIS FINAL YEARS ON EARTH,  
AND THAT HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE ARRANGED FOR  
HOOVER'S RETIREMENT IF HE HAD ACHIEVED THE PRESIDENCY."

END PAGE ONE

REC 13 100-106670-3619

JUN 30 1969

EX-103

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MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

6076



PAGE TWO

FBI EFFORTS SEEM DESIGNED TO SAVE THE LIVES OF BOTH KING AND KENNEDY.

LET US GRANT THAT HOOVER BEGUILLED KENNEDY AS HE DID OTHER ATTORNEYS GENERAL INTO ENTERING A DREARY SNOOPING EXERCISE. THIS IS REFERRED TO BY WECHSLER AS "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL."

IF KENNEDY IGNORED HOOVER'S WARNING ABOUT KING, AND KING TURNED OUT TO BE A BOMB SHELL, THE FBI SKILLED PUBLIC RELATIONS APPARATUS WOULD WHISPER KENNEDY'S REJECTION OF HOOVER'S PLEA.

WECHSLER CLAIMS KING COULD NOT ANSWER HOOVER'S STATEMENTS BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT SOME ASPECTS OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE HAD BEEN MONITORED BY THE FBI. HOOVER'S CURRENT "RELEASE OF SELECTIVE INFORMATION" IS DUE TO HIS SENSITIVITY OF GENERALISTIC CRITICISM.

WECHSLER CALLS FOR THE ENTIRE STORY TO BE AIRED SO THAT "MANY LIVING MEN MAY BE SPARED INJUSTICE AND INDIGNITY AT THE HANDS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT TOO LONG AGO BECAME A STATE WITHIN A STATE."

XEROX COPIES OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE ARE BEING PROMPTLY FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

END

FBI WASH DC HWL

CC MR. SULLIVAN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

DATE: 6/26/69

FROM: Bishop

SUBJECT: WILLIAM C. BARTON, ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 JOHN MC KENZIE, WASHINGTON POST  
 REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Both Barton of the AP and McKenzie from the Post contacted my office yesterday to request personal interviews with the Director. Mr. Barton advised that in view of the interview given by Mr. Hoover which appeared in the Detroit Free Press, his desk had requested him to make a formal request of the Director. The Director's extremely heavy schedule was explained to Mr. Barton and he said he fully understood the problem.

It will be recalled that following the story in the Star last week concerning the wiretaps on Martin Luther King that McKenzie, from the Post, requested an interview and was told quite firmly that the Director would not grant an interview to him. In his call last evening, McKenzie was most persistent and again referred to the Star interview and said that in view of the Detroit Free Press story, they felt all the more they should have the opportunity for an exclusive interview with the Director. He asked that he be called today with the Director's decision and he will be informed, of course, that the Director will not grant an interview.

For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

1 - Miss Gandy  
 1 - Miss Holmes

HPL:hak (6)

NOT RECORDED  
 JUN 27 1969  
 JUN 30 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

65 JUL 14 1969

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 DATE 11/14/81 BY SP4 JRM/ld  
 6076

ORIGINAL FILED IN

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JRM/ML  
ON 2-14-81  
6076

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 6/20/69

Attached relates to a conversation between Coretta King and Stanley Levison during which Mrs. King advised she had been contacted by Ethel Kennedy (Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy) on 6/20/69 and that Ethel Kennedy said she was sorry about what has been in the paper. (Apparently referring to the article concerning the authorization from Robert F. Kennedy to tap Martin Luther King's telephones). Levison felt the entire affair will be forgotten, but that FBI Director Hoover will be bothered by it because it leaves him as the man responsible. Mrs. King agreed stating, "I feels like he is the most guilty." Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

In view of the nature of this information and the secret source from which it was obtained, no dissemination is being made.

Classified by 1008 Pdl/MP  
Exempt from GDS Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/29/77

ABK:chs

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

VIA TELETYPE

END

PM URGENT 6-20-69 AWS

DIRECTOR 100-106670 (CODE)

DATE 10-30-80

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM NEW YORK 100-136585

SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SM-C, CP: AT.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: ATLANTA

b(2) b(7)(D)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (CLASSIFY "SECRET") ON JUNE TWO ZERO, SIXTYNINE:

Classified by 6080 Red/RAE

Exempt from GDS, Category 2

Date of Declassification Indefinite 10/30/17

ON JUNE TWO ZERO, SIXTYNINE, CORETTA KING TOLD

STANLEY LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY HAD CONTACTED HER THAT DATE TO SAY SHE WAS SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE PAPER (APPARENTLY REFERRING TO THE ARTICLE CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION FROM ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO **REC-93** MARTIN LUTHER KING'S TELEPHONES). CORETTA ADDED THAT ETHEL KENNEDY IMPLIED THAT SHE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THEIR FRIENDSHIP. CORETTA SAID SHE REPLIED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD HOW THE PRESS CAN BE DEVISIVE AT TIMES AND THAT THIS DOES NOT COLOR HER ATTITUDE IN ANYWAY TOWARD THE (KENNEDY) FAMILY.

CORETTA ALSO TOLD LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY SAID "THEY" HAD A MEETING AT HER HOME THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND TALKED

END PAGE ONE

70 JUL 10 1969

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) DATE 10-30-80

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-165/RAE 10/30/80  
JUN 30 1969  
UNRECORDED

PAGE TWO

CORETTA SAID  
THEY KNOW WHAT ETHEL KENNEDY WAS SAYING ABOUT  
I WANT TO ASK HER.

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT HE FELT CORETTA'S ANSWER  
WAS CORRECTLY RIGHT BECAUSE THERE IS NO POINT IN ATTEMPTING  
TO ASSESS WHAT ROLE BOBBY KENNEDY PLAYED SINCE THERE IS NO  
WAY OF REALLY KNOWING.

CORETTA STATED THAT THIS WAS "SORT OF PASSING THE  
BUCK. AND THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT IT ALL OFF ON HIM". SHE  
ADDED THAT HE MAY HAVE AGREED AND GONE ALONG WITH IT.

LEVISON REMARKED THAT THEY KNOW KING, WHETHER HE  
FELT BOBBY KENNEDY WAS INVOLVED OR NOT, STILL MAINTAINED A  
FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE SAID IF KING FELT BOBBY  
KENNEDY HAD DONE ANYTHING, HE FORGAVE HIM NO DOUBT BASED ON  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIME, THE FACT HE WAS ALWAYS  
SUPER NERVOUS ABOUT HIS BROTHER (PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY).  
LEVISON SAID THIS IS THE ATTITUDE CORETTA SHOULD TAKE. HE  
SAID IF THE PRESS "WANTS TO DIG UP GARBAGE" IT SHOULD NOT  
BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

CORETTA SAID THAT FOLLOWING HER CONVERSATION WITH  
ETHEL KENNEDY, THE PHONE RANG AGAIN AND THAT THE GIRL WHO  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ANSWERED SENATOR KENNEDY. CORETTA SAID, HOWEVER,  
SHE AND LEVISON AGREED THAT SENATOR  
KENNEDY HAD FOUND OUT THAT ETHEL CONTACTED CORETTA.  
GO THROUGH WITH THE CALL.

STATED THAT THE PRESSURE AT THIS POINT  
MANY LIBERALS WHO RESENT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER'S  
HOOVER GAVE AN ANSWER. HE ADDED THAT HOOVER  
HAD ANSWERED BACK BY (RAMSEY) CLARK, AND THAT CLARK'S  
ANSWER WAS RIGHT.

HE GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE ENTIRE AFFAIR  
WILL GO AWAY" AND ADDED THAT "IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING  
YOU CAN KEEP GOING." LEVISON FELT THE ENTIRE THING WILL BE  
FORGOTTEN BUT THAT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER WILL BE BOTHERED BY IT  
BECAUSE IT LEAVES HIM AS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE.

CORETTA AGREED, STATING "I FEELS LIKE HE IS THE  
MOST GUILTY."

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT CORETTA'S SUGGESTION THAT SHE  
GET TOGETHER WITH ETHEL KENNEDY COULD BE FRUITFUL AND SHOULD  
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

BE DONE REASONABLY SOON. LEVISON SUGGESTED THAT CORETTA  
SET UP THE MEETING AND THAT THEY COULD TALK ABOUT IT BEFORE  
SHE AND ETHEL KENNEDY MEET. ~~A~~

*memo*  
NO ~~LHM~~ BEING SUBMITTED.

END

WA...LRC

FBI WASH DC

CC MR. SULLIVAN

~~SECRET~~  
4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
June 27, 1969

The attached letter regarding  
Martin Luther King and newspaper  
articles were sent to the Director  
from an anonymous source.

Envelope is postmarked  
San Francisco, California,  
June 25, 1969.

MR. TOLSON \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. DELOACH \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. MOHR \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. BISHOP \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CASPER \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CALLAHAN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. CONRAD \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. FELT \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. GALE \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. ROSEN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. SULLIVAN \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. TAVEL \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. TROTTER \_\_\_\_\_  
MR. JONES \_\_\_\_\_  
TELE. ROOM \_\_\_\_\_  
MISS HOLMES \_\_\_\_\_  
MRS. METCALF \_\_\_\_\_  
MISS GANDY \_\_\_\_\_

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

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6076

*C. Moore*  
*File*  
*5-787*

100-106670-

NOT RECORDED

5 JUL 3 1969

ENCLOSURE

55 JUL 8 1969



# MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AT COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



The above picture was made by an employee of the State of Georgia, at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. The photographer was sent to the Highlander Folk School by the Georgia Commission on Education. The Highlander Folk School was abolished by an act of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee at a later date.

Those numbered in the picture are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Montgomery boycott and the Birmingham riots. Karl Prussion, a counterspy for the FBI for twelve years, charges that Martin Luther King belongs to sixty Communist-front organizations — more than any Communist in the United States.
2. Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.
3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Southern Conference Education Fund, Inc., The Transmission Belt in the South for the Communist Party.
4. Myles Horton, Director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tennessee.

These "Four Horsemen" of racial agitation have brought disorder, disturbance, strife and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of "racial nationalism."

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# King Wiretap

But Rowan Is Still

Attorney General

BY RONALD J. O'ROURKE

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Two

former attorneys general

accused J. Edgar Hoover

Thursday night of making

"false" and "deceptive"

statements after the FBI

director was quoted as

saying Robert F. Kennedy

initiated a wiretap on Dr.

Martin Luther King.

Nicholas D. Katzenbach

and Ramsey Clark spoke

out after Hoover, in a

copyrighted interview

with the Washington

Evening Star, said Ken-

edy, when attorney gen-

eral, not only authorized but

proposed the tap because

of reports Dr. King was

associating with a lawyer

with Communist connec-

tions.

The King wiretap was

authorized after the FBI

made a case that national

security was involved. At-

torneys general have had

presidential approval for

wiretaps in cases of na-

tional security since the

Presidency of Franklin D.

Roosevelt.

Katzenbach, asked about

Hoover's statement, said:

"... To say or imply

that this tap was the

original conception of

Robert Kennedy—that he

was the moving force in

this situation—or that he

had any doubts what-

soever as to Dr. King's

integrity or loyalty is

completely false."

Clark, also asked for his

reaction, said it was "de-

fectly acceptable" for Hoover to

portray the FBI as "a

reluctant eavesdropper of

Dr. King." He added:

"Mr. Hoover repeatedly

requested me to authorize

the FBI wiretaps on Dr. King

while I was attorney gen-

eral. The last of these

requests, none of which

was granted, came two

days before the murder of

Dr. King."

According to FBI re-

cords, the tap was cut off

April 30, 1965. But a Dr. King

question has arisen as to

whether it may have con-

tributed far beyond this

and two former

attorneys general

initiated

the tap

on Dr. King

in 1964

and

the

tap

was

cut

off

April

30,

1965

but

a

Dr.

King

question

has

arisen

as

to

whether

it

may

have

con-

tributed

far

beyond

this

and

two

former

attorneys

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DATE 2-24-81 BY SP4WAL

# Report on

# Tap Called

Ex-Attorneys General Criticize FBI Chief  
on Saying Robert Kennedy Initiated Ord

BY RONALD J. O'ROURKE

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Two

former attorneys general

accused J. Edgar Hoover

Thursday night of making

"false" and "deceptive"

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fectly acceptable" for Hoover to

portray the FBI as "a

reluctant eavesdropper of

Dr. King." He added:

"Mr. Hoover repeatedly

of possible political re-

assessments.

Commenting on this

legation, Katzenbach

"Truth is seldom found

selective and partial

closures of this type."

Katzenbach declined

to amplify on this part of

statement which sug-

gested that Hoover picked

chose among documents

support his claim

Kennedy was the most

force behind the King

surveillance.

Katzenbach, in a

phone interview from

New York home, said

was "unworthy of

tradition of the FBI

attack in this fashion

reputation of two

(Kennedy and Dr. King)

who cannot defend

themselves."

## Called Unfair

"What has been

unfair to Sen. RFK

and Dr. King and

standards that are

consonant with the

grity and sense of

which have always

been the core of

of Mr. Hoover to

administration of

can justice," Kat-

zenbach said.

Katzenbach said

deputy attorney gen-

eral under Kennedy

preceded him in the

when Kennedy resig-

ned to run for the Senate

Burke Marshall

headed the Justice

Department's Civil Rights

division under Kennedy

ported the charge

Hoover was citing

those documents that

up his assertions.

"It's outrageous for

Hoover to use these

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE  
Date 6/26/69

Attached was received from a highly confidential source and concerns a telephone conversation between Andrew Young, Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley Levison. Young said that he thinks Kunstler (believed to be William Kunstler, New York attorney for the Black Panther Party (BPP), is about to file a suit enjoining the FBI from wire tapping BPP and several other organizations. Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

The Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Internal Security Division are being advised.

ABK:TDR/chs/lis

*Not done, info appeared in newspaper 6/26/69*

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ON 2-14-81  
6026

6080 Lel/TAP  
12/20/77

ENCIPHERED

~~GAAGAAGAA~~...

NEW YORK 100-136585

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ON 2-14-8

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) *Classified*  
DATE *2/11/51*

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; SM-C (OO- AT).  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN - ATLANTA

FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] b(2) b7(D) 4  
[REDACTED] ON SIX TWENTY FIVE SIXTYNINE  
CLASSIFY "SECRET").

ON SIX TWENTYFIVE SIXTYNINE, ANDREW YOUNG, EXECUTIVE  
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
VICE-PRESIDENT, SCLC, ASKED STANLEY LEVISON, IF HE WAS "KEEPING  
UP ON THE TIMES (NEW YORK TIMES) THING ON WIRE TAPPING"  
(ALLUDING TO THE TAPPING OF TELEPHONES OF MARTIN LUTHER  
KING.) LEVISON REPLIED THAT HE WAS AND YOUNG SAID THAT HE  
THINKS THAT KUNSTLER IS ABOUT TO FILE A SUIT ENJOINING THE  
FBI AGAINST WIRE TAPPING THE BLACK PANTHERS, WOMEN'S STRIKE  
FOR PEACE, THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE,  
END PAGE ONE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF CLASS  
DATE 9-6-78 WJ

Classified by 6000  
Exempt from GDS, Category 2  
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/29/77

TELETYPE TO  
3 JUL 1969  
ETB

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

THIRD

THE ... OF RACIAL ... THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIAL ... EVERYTHING TO THE LEFT OF US." ~~S~~

... SAID THE PROBLEM IS THAT KUNSTLER "IS TRYING  
TO GET US IN THE SOUP BUT THAT'S JUST NOT OUR COMPANY." ~~S~~

... AGREED. ~~S~~

... IS BELIEVED TO BE NY ATTORNEY WILLIAM  
KUNSTLER, WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING FOR BPP MEMBERS  
INVOLVED IN LEGAL ACTIONS IN NYC. ~~u~~

~~MEMO~~  
NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED. ~~u~~

AM COPY BEING SENT TO AT.

END

~~WA... CORR LI ONE TEXT W 6 SHD BE YOUNG~~

WA... LRM FBI WASH DC

IVAN

~~SECRET~~